GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3674
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2016
Gross Enrolment Ratio
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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of the country in higher education;
(b) whether the Ministry has a target to achieve 30 per cent GER by 2020;
(c) if so, the number of students who needs to be enrolled in the higher education system by 2020;
(d) whether our colleges and universities are equipped to cater to the demand-supply in this regard;
(e) if so, whether higher education in the country is marked by gender imbalance; and
(f) if so, whether the Ministry plans to address such challenges, if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)

(a)to (c): As per the report of All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) during 2014-15, in Higher Education in the age group 18-23 yearsis 24.3%. According to the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) document, creation of an additional capacity of 10 million students including one million in open and distance learning is envisaged by the end of the Twelfth Plan to reach the target of 30% of GER by 2020-21.
Gross Enrolment Ratio is total enrolment in Higher education as percentage of the population in the age group 18-23 years in a year. Therefore, number of students required to be enrolled in higher education for achieving the GER target of 30% by 2020 would depend upon the population in the age group 18-23 years in 2020. However, with the increasing trend in GER over the past few years from 20.8% in 2011-12 to 24.3% in 2014-15, the target is achievable.
(d): As per AISHE 2014-15, there are 51,534 Higher Education Institutions including 760 universities in the country.To attract Students to Higher Education, the Government has taken several initiatives such as opening of new institutions, scholarship and interest subsidy on educational loans availed by the students. The National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) has been envisaged as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the objective of making the best use of ICT with the purpose of identification and nurturing of talent and life-long learning as well as extending the education facility to a larger section of people. During the Twelfth Five Year Plan a new scheme called the RashtriyaUchchatarShikshaAbhiyan (RUSA) has been launched withthe aim to achieve equity, access and excellence in state higher education system. The scheme supports components such as upgrading autonomous colleges to universities, clustering colleges to establish a university, setting up of new professional colleges in un-served and underserved areas as well as providing infrastructure grants to universities and colleges to scale up capacity.
(e) & (f): As per AISHE 2014-15, Gender Parity Index (GPI) at 0.92 shows that proportion of enrolment of male students in higher education to their population in the age group 18-23 years is marginally higher than the corresponding proportion for female students.In order to encourage girls students for pursuing higher education, the Government is implementing scholarship/fellowship programmes for them to supplement the cost of education. For increasing participation of girls in higher education 'Construction of Women's hostels for colleges'scheme is also being implemented.
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